

Edina remembers Days of Remembrance and victims of Genocides

The City of Edina leads the country in raising awareness about genocide and preventing violence and hate. In 2011, Mayor Hovland signed a proclamation honoring Days of Remembrance victims and survivors. During the month of April, The Edina Human Rights and Relations Commission invited Fred Baron to share his story of survival during the Holocaust. A copy of his speech and other Holocaust videos are available for viewing on Channel 16 every year during the month of April.

In 2012, Mayor Hovland signed a proclamation indicating the City of Edina would acknowledge the National Days of Remembrance in perpetuity as well as encouraging our community members to reflect on the need for respect for all people.

This past spring, Governor Dayton signed into law a bill that designates every April to be Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month. The bill encourages organizations to sponsor events in April to educate the public and to remember those whose lives and cultures have been forever changed.

In 2007 Edina became the third city in the country to pass anti-genocide legislation; in 2008 Edina divested public funds from organizations complicit with the Darfur genocide;; and in 2012 Edina supported a resolution against using 'conflict minerals' from Congo.

This April, we are pleased to announce the City of Edina will be hosting a series of events with the Edina Human Rights and Relations Commission and World Without Genocide. We hope our residents and business owners will join us to hear stories from people who have gone through these types of experiences and horrors in their lives and have survived to help us remember, so that we never forget. These events are free, open to the public, and educators can receive continuing education credit.

Tuesday, April 8, 7:00-8:30 pm, Days of Remembrance, at Edina Senior Center, 5280 Grandview Square, Edina, MN 55436. The program includes the readers' theater play "Upstanders: Ten Who Dared," a performance of resistance music from the Holocaust, and the story of Sophie Scholl and the White Rose, a youth resistance movement in Nazi Germany.

Thursday, April 10, 7:00-8:30 pm, Genocide Awareness – the 20th Anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide, at Edina City Hall, 4801 W 50th St, Edina, MN 55424. Dr. Ellen Kennedy, executive director of World Without Genocide and Edina resident, will speak about the situation in Rwanda today and the crisis in Congo, where six million people have perished since 1996. She will highlight Minnesota initiatives to reduce the violence.

Sunday, April 13, 2:00-4:00 pm, Yom Hashoah – Holocaust Remembrance - at Edina City Hall, 4801 W 50th St, Edina, MN 55424. Holocaust survivor Fred Amram will speak about his experiences. This event also includes Holocaust displays and photos and participation in an ongoing art project.